

**Taipei American School: World Religions 2022-23**

***Honors Seminar World Religions***

Teacher: Mr. Chris Ciambarella

Email: [ciambarellac@tas.tw](mailto:ciambarellac@tas.tw)

Class Website: www.mrciambarellaclass.com

**2nd Semester Overview**

This second semester will be very similar to the first semester; however, we will focus primarily on the 3 great Monotheistic Religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Like last semester, we will have a Socratic Seminar on each of these three religions for 30% of your grade. Another 30% of your grade will continue to be class participation because this is a SEMINAR-BASED CLASS!

What is NEW this second semester is that 40% of your grade will be an INDEPENDENT PROJECT. This will be a great opportunity for you to do in-depth study on anything you are interested in related to religion, philosophy, health, etc. In addition to working on these independent projects, we will also spend the first month of the semester exploring a "feminist" approach to religion and spirituality, in addition to exploring some other religions like Sikhism, aboriginal and indigenous religious systems and ideas.

**COURSE GENERAL SCHEDULE**

**Semester II:**

Unit 1 Work on your Independent Project

-Special study & discussion of "Feminine/Goddess" Spirituality & other religions

Unit 2 Judaism

Unit 3 Christianity

Unit 4 Islam

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

**Grading**

**Class Participation & Portfolio Work (30%)**

After each class you will complete the "Class Participation Rubric", which can be found on my website under "Week 1 World Religions Participation Rubric." Please note that your class attention and participation will determine 30% of your overall grade! There will also be some in-class art portfolio work as well.

**Socratic Seminars (30%)**

Instead of quizzes, tests, and exams we have "Socratic Seminars". During these seminars students in the class are expected to prepare for and lead class discussions on assigned topics related to class. Part of your grade is your preparation and part of your grade is your participation.

**Independent Project for Honors Students …or**

**Internal Study for non-Honors Students (40%)**

I believe this project should be enjoyable for you!

For **Honors & non-Honors students** you may learn about anything related to World Religions, philosophy, world cultures, etc. I will pretty much accept any topic that you are passionate to learn more about! This is a great opportunity to read and learn about something you are interested in. Here are some examples from last year's topics:

Wiccan/Witch Practices Chinese Medicine Yoga & Meditation Practice

Sports & Mindfulness Music Styles in Religions Dancing in Religions

Taiwan Aboriginal Religions and Spirituality

Quantum Physics & Spirituality Bob Marley & Rastafarianism Science Fiction & Religion Learning Sanskrit Sufi Dancing

The Lord of the Rings Philosophy Chinese Calligraphy Tibet Culture

Of course, many students used this opportunity to learn more about any of the religions we are studying such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, etc.

Some students also decided to learn about other religions we did not cover, such as Japanese Shinto, Jainism, African Religions, Voodoo, etc..

**WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE AMONG HONORS vs. NON-HONORS STUDENTS?**

**NON-HONORS STUDENTS**

The only difference is that for your Independent Project you are only required to research and read about it. You do NOT have to create a Final Project or Presentation. You are only graded on two things: 1)Your research and reading on the topic, and 2) A final "book report paper" about 3-5 pages long where you describe what you learned. It is NOT a research paper.

**HONORS STUDENTS**

For your Independent Project, you MUST have a FINAL PROJECT and also a FINAL PRESENTATION to the class. Or you can decide to make 1 VIDEO that counts as both your project and presentation.

**World Religions 2022-23**

**Semester 2 Tentative Schedule**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Dates**  **(in A/B order)** | **Topics** |
| **UNIT 1** | **Independent Projects UNIT & Study of other ‘religions’ for fun** |
| **Jan 30**  **Day 1** | Work on Independent Projects  Sikhism |
| **Feb 1**  **Day 2** | Work on Independent Projects  Sikhism |
| **Feb 3**  **Day 3** | Work on Independent Projects  Aboriginal Religions |
| **Feb 7**  **Day 4** | Work on Independent Projects  Into to Great Goddess Religion |
| **Feb 9**  **Day 5** | Work on Independent Projects  Great Goddess Religion II |
| **Feb 13**  **Day 6** | Work on Independent Projects  Wiccan & Modern Feminine Spirituality |
| **Feb 15**  **Day 7** | Work on Independent Projects  Modern Feminine Spirituality |
| **Feb 17**  **Day 8** | Work on Independent Projects |
| **Feb 21**  **Day 9** | Work on Independent Projects |
| **Feb 23**  **Day 10** | Work on Independent Projects |
| **Feb 27**  **Day 11** | Work on Independent Projects |
| **Mar 1**  **Day 12** | Work on Independent Projects |
| **Mar 3**  **Day 13** | Work on Independent Projects |
| **Mar 7**  **Day 14** | Work on Independent Projects |
| **Mar 9**  **Day 15** | Work on Independent Projects |
| **Mar 13**  **Day 16** | **INDEPENDENT PROJECTS & PRESENTATIONS DUE!** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **UNIT 2** | **PD Day--No school for kids** | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **JUDAISM** |  | |
| **Mar 15**  **Day 1** | Judaism |
| **Mar 17**  **Day 2** | Judaism |
| **Mar 21**  **Day 3** | Judaism |
| **Mar** **23**  **Day 4** | Judaism |
| **Mar 28**  **Day 5** | Judaism |
| **Mar** **30**  **Day 6** | Judaism |
| **Apr 10**  **Day 7** | Judaism |
| **Apr 12**  **Day 8** | **SOCRATIC SEMINAR #1 on JUDAISM** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **UNIT 3** | **PD Day--No school for kids** | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **CHRISTIANITY** |  | |
| **Apr 14**  **Day 1** | Christianity |
| **Apr 18**  **Day 2** | Christianity |
| **Apr 20**  **Day 3** | Christianity |
| Apr 24  Day 4 | Christianity |
| **Apr 26**  **Day 5** | Christianity |
| **Apr 28**  **Day 6** | Christianity |
| **May 3**  **Day 7** | Christianity |
| **May 5**  **Day 8** | Christianity |
| **May 9**  **Day 9** | Christianity |
| **May 11**  **Day 10** | Christianity |
| **May 15**  **Day 11** | **SOCRATIC SEMINAR #2 on CHRISTIANITY** |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **UNIT 4** | **PD Day--No school for kids** | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **CHRISTIANITY** |  | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **UNIT 4** | **PD Day--No school for kids** | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **ISLAM** |  | | |
| **May 17**  **Day 1** | Islam |
| **May 19**  **Day 2** | Islam |
| **May 23**  **Day 3** | Islam |
| **May 25**  **Day 4** | Islam |
| **May 29**  **Day 5** | Islam |
| **May 31**  **Day 6** | FINAL SOCRATIC SEMINAR OF THE YEAR! |